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FRP: .2,3,4. . . .

STATE

ACTION: NONE INFO: ALA/CR-2, ALA/ES-2, ALA/G-2, ALA/HO-2,
ALA/MC/CAR, ALA/MC/D, ALA/MC/E1, ALA/MC/EP, ALA/MC/PME, ALA/MC/RAE,
ALA/N-2, ALA/P-2, ALA/PO/LA, NMOM, ODPG-G, ODPN-N, ODPS-S, ODPW-W,
OGI/GD/AWH, OGI/IIC/PI, OGI/TAB1, OGI/TAB2, OGI/VIP/MP, OOE/EI/PS,
DPCTR/EALA, PAGE-E (), RF, FILE, DDO-4, DDA, LA/CATF-3, CI/DC,
COMMO/RB, CR/W, CTG/ISB-3, D/FBIS-2, D/OMS-3, DOSO/AODCT, EPO/LA,
IAD/CTG-4, ICS/HC/LA, INT/RR, NCECF, NCPM, NICAG/TWI, NIO/CT, NIO/LA,
OC/CSD-2, OC/FILE, OC/HQ/SOG, OC/NOB, OC/SOG-3, OGI/ISI/CA, OIA/TWALA,
OIA/TWSS, OTS/SAD, PPS/AO, PPS/PO, PPS/SEO-3, QA/STATE, SAG/LIB, SECUR-2,
STD/PPC, SWO, (56/W)

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6736
INFO RUESNA/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0456
RUEHLL/CONTADORA COLLECTIVE
BT
UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 13661

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E-3

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGDV, PTER, HO
SUBJECT: HONDURAN PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON ATTEMPT TO
ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT SUAZO

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
☒ Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 2/22/02 Exemption

1. SUMMARY: AFTER EMERGENCY MEETING OF KEY CABINET
AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, FONMIN PAZ BARNICA READ GOH
PRESS COMMUNIQUE ON THE ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE
PRESIDENT SUAZO ON NATIONAL RADIO NET AT 9:30 P.M.
LOCAL TIME NOVEMBER 1. COMMUNIQUE STATES THAT AS A RESULT
OF U.S. EVIDENCE IMPLICATING GEN. BUESO ROSA, THE
FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF, GOH HAS WITHDRAWN HIS DIPLOMATIC
STATUS IN CHILE, SO AS TO FACILITATE ARREST AND
EXTRADITION. COMMUNIQUE ALSO RELATES PLOT TO
"INTERNAL DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES... IN RECENT
MONTHS ... TO PREPARE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
CONDITIONS FOR SUCH REPREHENSIBLE ACTS ..." BUT
DOES NOT SPECIFY EXACTLY WHAT THESE ACTIVITIES WERE
NOR ASSIGN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM. THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UNITED STATES, THE FBI, AND AMB. NEGROPONTE
WERE PRAISED FOR THEIR ROLE IN PREVENTING THE
ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANSLATION
PRESS COMMUNIQUE:

BEGIN QUOTE:

- DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS

- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COMMUNICATED OFFICIALLY TODAY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF
HONDURAS THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR THAT THE COMPETENT
AUTHORITIES OF THE UNITED STATES, AMONG THEM THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION (FBI), HAVE UNCOVERED A CONSPIRACY OF
COMPLEX RAMIFICATIONS TO ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE THE
CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF HONDURAS, DR. ROBERTO
SUAZO CORDOVA, AND TO IMPLEMENT A CAREFULLY PREPARED
PLAN TO OVERTHROW THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT THAT

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THE PEOPLE OF HONDURAS FREELY ELECTED THE 27TH OF NOVEMBER 1981.

- ALSO, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS INFORMED US BY THESE MEANS THAT THE PLOT IS RELATED TO A MULTIMILLION DOLLAR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING OPERATION.

- THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, DR. ROBERTO SUAZO CORDOVA, WAS KEPT INFORMED FROM THE FIRST MOMENT THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED. TODAY THE INVESTIGATION ENTERED A DETERMINING PHASE WITH THE ARREST AND IMPRISONMENT IN MIAMI, FLORIDA, OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONS: MANUEL BINKER, ROBERT KURTZ, GERARD LATCHINIAN, JEROME LATCHINIAN, ELAINE PEREZ, JUAN ROCA, FAIZ SIKAFFY, AND JOSE ZIMMERMAN.

- THE OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AS RECEIVED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, INDICATED THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ACCOMPLICES IN THIS CONSPIRACY WAS GENERAL JOSE ABDENEGO BUESO ROSA, WHO BECAUSE OF THE EVENTS OF THE 31ST OF MARCH OF THIS YEAR HAD BEEN ASSIGNED AS THE DEFENSE ATTACHE OF HONDURAS IN CHILE.

- IN THIS RESPECT, THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI STATED THAT GEN. JOSE ABDENEGO BUESO ROSA AND GERARD LATCHINIAN AND FAIZ SIKAFFY HAVE BEEN ACCUSED IN THE COURTS OF MIAMI OF PARTICIPATING IN A CONSPIRACY TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT SUAZO CORDOVA AND TO BRING DOWN THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

- THE INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT SO FAR BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN GOVERNMENT REVEAL THAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE ALSO INVOLVED, BOTH HONDURANS AND FOREIGNERS.

- THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS IMMEDIATELY CANCELLED THE ASSIGNMENT OF GEN. BUESO ROSA AS ATTACHE IN CHILE, WHICH REMOVED HIS DIPLOMATIC STATUS TO ALLOW HIS DETENTION AND EXTRADITION, WHICH WILL IN TURN OPEN THE WAY FOR APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION.

- THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT THIS PLOT AGAINST THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HONDURAN PEOPLE AND AGAINST THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF OUR COUNTRY, UNPRECEDENTED IN ITS

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NATURE, IMPLICATIONS, AND CONSEQUENCES, IS RELATED TO THE INTERNAL DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN OUR COUNTRY IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY AND IMAGE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND TO PREPARE THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CONDITIONS FOR SUCH REPREHENSIBLE ACTS AS THE AFORESAID.

- IN THE LAST MONTHS, THERE HAVE BEEN CLEAR SIGNS OF THESE DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES. MOVEMENTS OF UNREST (PERTURBACION) HAVE APPEARED ON THE MARGINS OF THE LAW, AND, COINCIDENTALLY, WE HAVE NOTED THE INTENTIONS OF SOME INTERESTED GROUPS IN INSTRUMENTING A CAMPAIGN OF SYSTEMATIC QUESTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC, WHICH TENDS TO UNDERMINE THE LEGALLY CONSTITUTED REGIME.

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- IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE BEEN INSIDIOUS AND UNWARRANTED ATTACKS CONTINUALLY AGAINST THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC. THE INSINUATIONS THAT SOME GROUPS AND PRIVATE PERSONS AIRD PUBLICLY, INTENDED TO DISCREDIT AND TO SLOW DOWN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WHICH IS NOW BEGINNING, AND THE CONTINUOUS DEMANDS THAT INSTITUTIONS SET FORTH IN OUR JURIDICAL/POLITICAL STRUCTURE SET ASIDE THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL FUNCTIONS, ALLOWS ONE TO SUPPOSE THAT THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE NOT UNRELATED TO THIS STRATEGY OF DISORDER.

- THE HONDURAN PRESIDENT, DR. ROBERTO SUAZO CORDOVA, CALLS ON ALL THE CITIZENS, WITH TOTAL FIRMNESS AND WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EXISTING LEGAL STRUCTURE, TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE AND GOVERNMENT THAT NOW IS BEING CONSOLIDATED IN OUR COUNTRY, WHICH HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF DETERMINED QUESTIONING DERIVING FROM UNCHECKED PERSONAL AMBITIONS. IN THE SAME MANNER, HE EXPRESSES HIS SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE MULTIPLE MANIFESTATIONS OF SUPPORT WHICH ARE BEING SHOWN BY DISTINCTIVE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC SECTORS OF OUR COUNTRY, AND BY THE EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY WHICH ARE BEING RECEIVED FROM FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS.

- THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS AND IN A VERY SPECIAL MANNER PRESIDENT ROBERTO SUAZO CORDOVA EXPRESS IN THIS WAY THEIR APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION AND DISMANTLING OF THIS CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY. IT DEMONSTRATES THE UNDIVIDED SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ITS GOVERNMENT TO THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS OF OUR COUNTRY, AND IT CONSTITUTES IN ADDITION FIRMNESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND INTERNATIONAL VIOLENCE WHICH COMES FROM BOTH THE EXTREME LEFT AND THE EXTREME RIGHT.

- THE GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS HAS REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION TO PUNISH THOSE WHO ARE GUILTY OF THIS CRIME TO DAMAGE THE STATE.

- THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THROUGH ITS AMBASSADOR IN HONDURAS, JOHN DIMITRI NEGROPONTE, HAS EXPRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT ITS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE WITH ALL THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATIONS TO THIS END.

- BY THIS MEANS, PRESIDENT SUAZO CORDOVA REITERATES ONE MORE TIME THE POLITICAL WILL OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT TO WORK BRAVELY AND WITHOUT REST TO STRENGTHEN THE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND SOLIDIFY THE ROCK-LIKE UNITY OF ALL HONDURANS WHICH IS AN INDISPENSIBLE NECESSITY OF A PERMANENT NATURE. IT BECOMES EVEN MORE ESSENTIAL IN CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THIS, A TIME WHEN OUR WAY OF LIFE AND GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN THREATENED BY THE ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY WHO FRUSTRATE THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE.

- THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC HAS THE FIRM AND FULL BACKING OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THE SUPPORT OF THE HONDURAN PEOPLE TO GUARANTEE THE STABILITY, PEACE, AND LIBERTY OF OUR COUNTRY.

TEGUCIGALPA, D.C., NOVEMBER 1, 1984.

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END QUOTE.

3. DURING HALF-HOUR PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING
READING OF COMMUNIQUE, FOUR-MAN PANEL REPRESENTING
GOH AND CONGRESS (FONMIN PAZ, MINISTER OF THE
PRESIDENCY ARRIAGA, AND DEPUTIES CARLOS FLORES AND
PINEDA PONCE) TOOK QUESTIONS. PANELISTS REPLAYED
THEMES IN COMMUNIQUE, STRESSING INTEREST OF EXTREME
RIGHT AND LEFT IN DESTABILIZING THE COUNTRY. IN
THIS REGARD, PANELISTS ALSO USED OPPORTUNITY TO
REMARK THAT ONLY THE INTERESTS OF NICARAGUA AND
CUBA WOULD HAVE BENEFITED FROM SUCCESSFUL
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASSASSINATION PLOT
AGAINST PRESIDENT SUAZO.
NEGROPONTE

END OF MESSAGE

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